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# The Hongkong Telegraph

(ESTABLISHED 1861)

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February 16, 1918. Temperature 6 a.m. 58° F. 2 p.m. 71° F.  
Humidity 59 "

February 16, 1918. Temperature 6 a.m. 60° F. 2 p.m. 71° F.  
Humidity 57 "

WEATHER FORECAST

FAIR.

Barometer 30.00.

Temperature 6 a.m. 60° F. 2 p.m. 71° F.  
Humidity 57 "

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7879 六月初五

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1918.

大英港二月十六號

## REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

### THE LABOUR CORPS.

Missionaries as Officers and Chaplains.

London, February 12.

Hoping to encourage recruiting for the Labour Corps, the Government has asked some of the Church Missionary Society's missionaries to raise double Companies from among their Christians and to accompany them as officers and chaplains. Accordingly, three of the Society's missionaries are now in charge of Indians working behind the lines and four in charge of Chinese, while eight are serving with the Labour Corps in Africa.

### EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

#### LORD CURZON ON THE WAR SITUATION.

London, February 13.

In the House of Lords, in the course of the debate on the Address, Lord Curzon said an important step in the constitutional development of the Empire. Geographical conditions prevented frequent meetings, but the prosecution of the war, the supply of men, peace, and the after the war conditions were matters concerning which we should gain by deliberating with our overseas fellow subjects. He paid a tribute to the type of Dominion and Indian soldiers to be seen daily in the street. The success of the Palestine expedition was regarded all over the world as the sacred symbol of coming victory. (Cheers). All hoped that Palestine would never be allowed to revert to the Turks. The Arabs had assisted us to inflict heavy defeats on the enemy.

All must sympathise with Rumania. Her position was not due to failure of the Western Allies but to her geographical isolation since she had been deserted by Russia. In France our position was one of expectancy but the Allies had come to meet the onslaught, munitions equal to the enemy's and our moral was never higher. (Cheers). The Versailles Council justified the most sanguine expectations. It was inevitable that the military representatives at Versailles should be invested with greater power as time went on. They had to do efficiently and promptly with a situation which did not always permit of reference to distant Governments. The suspicions levelled against the Council were without foundation. He expected as regards military dispositions its executive functions would not be modified.

### THE WESTERN FRONT.

London, February 13.

A French communiqué reports reciprocal artillery activity in Champagne, on the right bank of the Meuse and in the Vosges. French airmen brought down four German aeroplanes and dropped 9,000 kilograms of bombs on the enemy's depots and railway stations, notably on the railway station of Metzablon, where fire broke out.

### EMPLOYEES' QUARTERS.

#### GERMAN FEARS ON BELGIAN COAST.

Larger North Sea Minefield.

Amsterdam, Nov. 16.—The Germans evidently are about to extend their minefield in the North Sea in order to prevent British naval movements in support of any attempted landing.

The *Vaderland* learns that the Germans will shortly bring their forbidden region nearer the Dutch coast. When the ruthless submarine war was announced last February the Germans said they would allow the Dutch boats to fish within 20 miles from the coast. This distance is now to be reduced to four or seven miles. Against this the small channel which in the north leads to the so-called fishing water and by which Dutch ships go to Scandinavia and America will be considerably enlarged. If this is a gain for Dutch shipping and the fishing industry, the reduction of the free navigation along the west coast is a new and great inconvenience which fishermen especially will feel, not only because the fishing ground is again restricted, but also because the danger is increased that fishing vessels may stray beyond their narrow free water into the forbidden region, with fatal results should they encounter submarine captain.

The *Vaderland* supposes that the new German measure is connected with the possibility of the British Fleet co-operating in the Flanders offensive.

"We can, indeed, assume (says the journal) that our Government has protested against this new restriction of the freedom of the seas, as it did against the previous restrictions from German or British, but it will be obliged, as before, to submit."

Pest Gamblers.

A case of gambling at the Peak was before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Police Court this morning. Thirteen men being charged with playing *ngau poi* in the servants' quarters of the house in the occupation of Captain James. It was stated that at about 4 p.m. yesterday the Police made a raid and found all the men gambling. A fine of \$3 each was inflicted.

### THE EARTHQUAKE.

#### A Terrible Visitation at Swatow.

Accounts now to hand show that the earthquake shocks of Wednesday and Thursday were far more seriously felt in Swatow than in Hongkong. The tremors were particularly violent, and immense damage was done to native and foreign buildings. Hundreds of houses collapsed, while it is calculated that from 600 to 1,000 Chinese lost their lives, many hundreds of others being injured. The ground was rent by big fissures in many places, while water and steam are said to have gushed forth from many of these crevices.

#### Standard Oil Report.

News received from the representatives of the Standard Oil Company goes to confirm that the shocks felt were terrible and have caused numerous deaths and untold damage. A letter, hurriedly written in the stress of circumstances, says that a very severe shock was felt about 2.10 p.m. and lasted about a minute. Houses fell and there was a scene of confusion never equalled in the port. To make matters worse, there were several other shocks which completed the damage already done. When the first shock was felt, thousands of people left their houses and watched their homes ruined by a succession of tremors. Europeans also fled into open spaces and remained there afraid to again enter their premises, the majority of which if not already raised to the ground showed very clearly that they were unfit for further habitation. The shock which did the most damage, however, was one which shook the town shortly after four o'clock on Thursday morning. This was exceptionally severe, and the earth shook to such an extent that buildings fell like houses built of cards. Even substantial premises suffered, many of them falling. There is no doubt that many of the deaths were caused by this second big shock. Many people had overcome their fears after the first shock and returned to their houses, and it is to be feared that many of these poor unfortunate are numbered among the victims.

At the time this letter was written, there were close on five hundred deaths, but in addition it is stated that there were numerous people injured and the hospitals are full to overflowing. The writer says that the Standard Oil offices at Swatow, though they have not actually collapsed, are far from stable, but other buildings have gone completely and there will be an unprecedented demand for building contractors. When things are straightened out a little more, business is totally suspended, and the town is in ruins. The work is going on of removing families and goods from houses, and dead bodies are being continually discovered. Writing with regard to the Standard Oil Company's installation the writer says that the tanks and pipes are badly strained but are still intact. Ties from the roof, and portions of the roof itself have, however, been rended. The new superintendent's residence is a total wreck. Further news is promised as soon as possible as to the extent of the damage done, and the total number of deaths, so far as is ascertainable, though it will, of course, be some considerable time before order can ensue from the chaos in which the town has been thrown.

From this letters and others which have been received in the Colony it will be seen that Swatow has suffered indescribable damage, and it is feared that the death-roll will be much heavier than was at first supposed.

### UNCLAIMED TELEGRAMS.

#### Eastern Extension, Australasia & China Telegraph Co.

Baker, YMCA, from Rancho Sub.  
Clark Circus, from Hanoi.  
Danica, from Saigon.  
Fruni Kremlin, from Tientsin.  
Gibson, Engineer, from Sydney.  
Monaha Singh, from San Francisco.  
Orsime, Hongkong Hotel, from Saigon.  
Vacher, from Mandinh.

J. K. GIBSON,  
Superintendent,  
Hongkong, Feb. 7, 1918.

The Great Northern Telegraph Company, Ltd.

Itakura, Matsubara Hotel, from Kobe.  
Sikora o/o Moutries, from Yokohama.  
Calinet, o/o Banker Co., Woerl Road, from Shanghai.  
Kwonghingloong, from Yokohama.  
Kiankee, from Amoy.  
Kwongshapo, from Kobe.

T. KRING,  
Act. Superintendent,  
Hongkong, Feb. 15, 1918.

### Absentees with Peace Pamphlets.

Arthur Leslie Quilliam, who was arrested by the Salford police on the day of the North Salford election and charged under the Defence of the Realm Act with having in his possession large quantities of peace pamphlets which he intended to distribute, was yesterday at Salford charged with being a military spy, and was handed over to an escort. The Home Office withdrew the other charge.

### Another Account.

A letter received from Swatow yesterday by Mr. F. C. Butcher, of Messrs. Bradley and Co., states that the earthquake was the worst known for twenty or thirty years. From the letter we take these extracts:

"The first shock was awful—buildings shuddered, and plaster fell everywhere; we fled to the open and found people running helter-skelter and everything falling. The damage to property is great, but how great we do not know as yet. There is a considerable loss of life, and casualties are very heavy. On the Kakoehoeh side—or the foreign settlement—all the properties are badly damaged. In some buildings the cracks appear to be very serious.... The earthquake travelled from north to south. I do not know how long the first serious quake lasted. It is impossible to guess, but it is put down at 40 to 60 seconds, which is a long time. Many foreigners slept on board the steamers in the harbour last night, and thousands of Chinese camped out in the open. All sorts of escapes are reported. The Custom House is wrecked and evacuated, and is front and back collapsed.... The roads everywhere are cracked badly. Nobody here knows enough to say whether a building is safe to occupy or not. Such an earthquake as experienced yesterday has not been known by old Ab-Pan, during his stay here of over forty years. It is still trembling. The B and S. are keeping the situation here to night for foreigners to sleep on board, as many houses are not habitable on the Kaili side."

Further reports of damage done will be given in later issues to-day.

### FIRST-AID ANTISEPTIC.

#### French Soldiers Furnished with Outfits.

Miracles of healing have played as important a part in this war as miracles of heroism, and the large percentage of recoveries from wounds shows that the technique of the army surgeon has progressed as rapidly as has that of the artillerist. Perhaps the most important advance is in the prevention and killing of infection in wounds. Such rather complicated processes as that devised by Drs. Carrel and Dakin have been used extensively in army hospitals and have been duly noticed. But the stricken soldier lying in "No Man's Land" or hidden in a shell-crater, may now keep his wound clean until the stretcher bearers find him. French soldiers are being furnished as with antiseptic compound which can be applied very easily. *Le Nature* tells us. It is a mixture of powdered chloride of lime and powdered boric acid. Each soldier now carries a small flask of this mixture and a glass insufflator, or blower, to project the powder upon the wound aseptically. This can be done, we are told, without causing pain, even when the nerves have been actually laid bare, the only sensation being that of heat. Since the powder dissolves very slowly, its antiseptic action is prolonged for several hours, without the necessity of renewing the dressing of the wound. If desired, a little calcium chloride to check bleeding can be added. This method is said to be cheaper and simpler than the iodine treatment which has been in use.

A new and effective method of using iodine in hospital or field treatment of infected wounds was thus described by August Luriere at a recent meeting of the French Academy of Sciences:

"Iodid of starch, in which the content of iodine corresponds to one in fifty thousand, suffices, after twenty-four hours of contact at a heat of 37° C. (98.6° F.), to kill streptococci and pyocyanic germs, and the *coil bacillus*. The streptococcus does not resist liquids containing only one-tenth as much of the active element."

"Experimental infected wounds made on animals were treated with iodid of starch, either in the form of powder or in a gelatinous paste. The wounds thus treated were very rapidly disinfected and were free of microbes in general at the third dressing. The iodid of starch can also be used in irrigations, the liquid containing, in one litre of boiling water, 25 grams of soluble starch and 60 cubic centimetres of a 1 per cent. solution of iodated hydriodate. The cicatrization of war-wounds thus treated appeared to be effected with peculiar rapidity."

### Light Reading.

The February issue of the *Police Reserve Gazette*, now on sale, is an extremely bright and sprightly number. There is a deal of matter relating to the R.C. including stories and some "tips," while the competition takes the form of "spotting" the winning stables in five events which are specified. "Aunt Dorothy's" effusion and a very clever skit on serial cinema films, entitled "Boy Jim," are most amusing features. The *Gazette* has now completely changed in style of make-up and presents a far more attractive appearance than ever before.

### HISTORY MADE IN BERLIN.

#### "London War Council 14.1913."

The *Hamburger Nachrichten* publishes, and other papers prominently reproduce, a report of an alleged British Crown Council concerning a speedy war against Germany.

This report, which the paper says that it has received from a thoroughly trustworthy source, states that a secret meeting of a limited number of Privy Councilors took place in July, 1913, at the Downing-street residence of the Prime Minister, Mr. Asquith.

Most of those were invited only shortly before, and were informed verbally. It was simultaneously impressed on them that the sitting must remain secret, and that nothing was to appear in the Press.

The uninvited Privy Councilors were to know nothing of it. King George attended the sitting. About 40 to 45 persons were present, including Lord Lansdowne and some others who stood very close personally to King Edward.

Lord Morley opened the sitting with a few words, after which Mr. Asquith announced that the King would personally attend and that Lord Kitchener would make a statement concerning the military relations of the Powers on the European Continent. Some time afterwards the King appeared, accompanied by Lord Knollys, Lord Kitchener, and the latter's staff.

Lord Kitchener delivered a very carefully worked-out statement culminating in the assertion that, even if Italy did not intervene in the war on the side of her Allies, Germany and her Allies would have such a preponderance over Russia and France that her victory would be indubitable.

Sir Edward Grey said that the Tsar personally was peace-loving, but would be strongly influenced from another side and would be compelled from dynastic considerations, probably sooner than was thought, to make war against Austria, whose influence in the Balkans was increasing, while Russia's was declining.

Sir Edward Grey spoke very fully about France, declaring that her desire to regain the ravished provinces was completely justified. To-day England could count on the help of France and Russia if Germany's efforts to force us off the seas became intolerable and compelled us to defend our possessions. How might the situation be in 20 years?

After some observations by Mr. Churchill, Lord Morley asked whether Sir Edward Grey's observations meant that England had the decision of war and peace, and ought to decide for war because the Romanoff family would like to continue ruling autocratically and the French wanted to regain two provinces of whose inhabitants only a small percentage were of French nationality.

Thereupon Sir Edward Grey, very embarrassed and angry, replied that Lord Morley had completely misunderstood him. If England drew the sword, it would only be to protect her own interest; but it was a dangerous policy to leave Germany's adversaries alone in the hour of danger and to wait.

Lord Kitchener hereupon spoke again, saying that the time was past when England could allow herself to stand aside and let the Continental Powers fight out their battles alone. It would be suicide if we did not participate in a European war at the beginning.

Lord Morley asked if it would not be better to make it perfectly clear on the one hand to Germany that England would, in all circumstances, stand by France's side, in the event of an attack on France, and on the other hand

to give France to understand that England would not tolerate in any case a war of aggression against Germany with the object of regaining Alsace and Lorraine.

Sir Edward Grey replied that this was the greatest way theoretically to preserve peace; practically the greater was otherwise England must in all circumstances retain a free hand.

Lord Morley replied that Sir Edward Grey's arguments had not convinced him.

An interval then took place and the sitting was resumed an hour later.

Lord Kitchener again spoke, ending with the words:

"Germany is envious of our rich inheritance. There is no other way but to fight. It is never good to postpone the inevitable.

Relying to Lord Morley, Sir Edward Grey said that he held once more that to make efforts to reach an understanding with Germany concerning naval armaments was useless. Moreover, the First Lord of the Admiralty would make some announcements from which they would see that it was not always advisable still further to postpone a war which must come some time.

Mr. Churchill made a ready hour-long statement, declaring that it appeared to him better not to wait till naval warfare had possibly undergone a complete revolution.

After Lord Kitchener's first speech an incident occurred, significant in the light of later events. When Lord Kitchener, in concluding his review, summed up the German and Austrian forces, Lord Lansdowne said that Lord Kitchener had not mentioned Italy, although it was assumed that Italy was allied to Germany and Austria.

Lord Kitchener did not reply, but Sir Edward Grey said that his Majesty's Government had ground to assume that in case of conflict Italy would remain neutral.

Lord Lansdowne again asked whether this assumption was a mere supposition or had tangible grounds.

Sir Edward Grey replied after some hesitation:

"I cannot answer this question." The sitting then closed with an address from the King enjoining upon those present strict silence; and adding that on the advice of the Cabinet only a limited number of Privy Councilors had been summoned to the sitting, in order better to preserve the secret. The sitting lasted till 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

To offset German imagination appears to be an attempt to counter the authentic disclosures that have been made in the Times with regard to the Potsdam War Council in July, 1914.

### DON'T FORGET.

TO-DAY.

Victoria Theatre—9.15 p.m.

Bijou Theatre—9.15 p.m.

New Hongkong Cinematograph—9.15 p.m.

TO-MORROW.

Victoria Regatta.

Victoria Theatre—9.15 p.m.

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"	50	1.85
Superfine	20	.75
"	100	2.40
"	50	1.20

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## GENERAL NEWS.

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## GENERAL NEWS.

## Austrians Released.

Another disembarkment of Austrian soldiers of Italian extraction and sympathies, who have been released by the Russian authorities from internment in order that they may serve with the Italian Armies, arrived at Tientsin Railway Station from Siberia on the 18th ult. They numbered about 300, making the total who have already been sent down about 375.

## British Women in the Philippines.

The small British community at Caloocan, in the Philippine Islands, has forwarded to the Overseas Club a supply of comforts for wounded soldiers in which they may keep their personal belongings. The women of this little community are determined to take their share in the war, and a weekly meeting is held at which all kinds of work for the Red Cross is undertaken.

## Store For Loyalists' Weapons.

A notice was published in the Dublin papers recently from the military authorities stating that, in view of the alarm that has been caused in the minds of loyal people in Dublin by a recent raid for arms in the city by evil-disposed persons, rifles, revolvers, and ammunition will be received for safe keeping at the Ordnance Store, Island Bridge, Dublin. Receipts for arms and ammunition so deposited will be given in all cases, and applications for the return of the arms will receive immediate attention.

## "Edible Earth" as a War Food.

The Berliner Tageblatt announces a new, or rather a rediscovered, "food," by which, it says, Germany will be able to hold out until the enemy gives up the struggle in despair. This "food" is described under the heading "Edible Earth, A Timely Hint." It is called fossil flour" or "infusorial earth." The journal says:—"This fossil flour is to be found in large layers in Sweden, Lapland, and Finland while France, England, and occupied parts of Greece are treated by nature in a much more inglorious fashion. Fossil flour fre-

quently occurs in Germany, especially in the Lüneburger Heide, in the neighbourhood of Berlin, near Königsberg in Prussia, in Hesse and elsewhere, where there are great deposits."

## The West Indian Contingent.

Brigadier-General Sir William Manning, Governor of Jamaica, who recently paid a visit to the British West Indies Regiment at the front, attended the half-yearly meeting of the West Indian Contingent Committee at the Colonial Office. He said that general officers, officers commanding, and company officers all testified to the excellent behaviour of the men under fire, and added that the West Indians were in no way affected by heavy casualties. The men were in excellent spirits, and got on admirably with their British comrades. Sir Everett im Thurn, the chairman, emphasised the fact that the regiment was now serving on "practically" every front, and that it had been in the firing line in the recent successful operations in Palestine. Sir Frederic Hodgson mentioned that only recently it had won a Military Cross, 12 Military Medals and two Royal Humane Society Medals.

## The Lord Mayor and Mr. Hogge.

Speaking at Chiswick, at a meeting of the National Federation of Discharged Soldiers, Mr. Pringle, M.P., referred to the meeting at the Mansion House in connection with the "Comrades" movement, when one of several discharged men interrupted the proceedings. He said that they did not object to the new organisation, but they did object to its trying to capture the old organisation by bribing and corrupting its officials. When the interrupters were ejected the remark was made by the Lord Mayor that they could now see where German gold was used.

Lord Beresford said, "Now,

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where German gold was used,

and Lord Beresford said, "Now,

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and Lord Beresford said, "Now,

May we that they could now see

## Prepaid Advertisements.

ONE CENT PER WORD  
FOR EACH INSERTION.

## TO BE LET.

TO BE LET.—FURNISHED HOUSE at Mount Davis Pokfulum Road, for February, March and April. Rent moderate. Apply H. E. Goldsmith, P. W. D.

TO BE LET.—A FLAT in Nathan Road, Kowloon. FOUR ROOMED-HOUSES in Kowloon.

Apply to—  
HUMPHREYS ESTATE &  
FINANCE CO., LTD.  
Alexandra Buildings.

TO BE LET.—HOUSES on Shameen, CANTON. OFFICES in York Buildings.

Apply to—  
THE HONGKONG LAN INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., LTD.

## WANTED.

WANTED.—TWO OR THREE LARGE OFFICE ROOMS in Central Locality. Apply to Tong Seng & Co., 19, Queen's Road, Central, Telephone No. 976

WANTED.—FURNISHED HOUSE, 6 Rooms, Garden Road level preferred, must have own Tennis Court. Apply with full particulars to Box 1357, c/o Hongkong Telegraph.

## FOOD TO FIGHT ON.

## Strange Diet Used by Troops.

The fighting ability of an Army depends primarily on its food. The human body cannot create energy, but only transforms it; and it is the energy bottled up in such prosaic stuff as beef and beans that wins our battles. In an article on "The Inner Man of Armies," contributed to the Scientific American (New York, December 1), Mr. L. Lodiati tells us that the food essentials of an army are four—meat, bread, sugar, and tea, stated in the order of importance, it being understood that fats are included in "meat" and all cereals, legumes, etc., in "bread." The "sugar" item includes all sugar containing fruits, and under "tea" are counted coffee, chocolate, cocoas and national beverages. Writes Mr. Lodiati:—

"All armies possess emergency rations. None of them is entirely up to the mark; and the problem is still to find an emergency ration which shall be passably satisfactory. For instance, the American article is lacking in proteins and fats; and the chocolate tablets which accompany it are an indifferent substitute.

"There are three different packed maize meal packets and three chocolates. The former article is but a revival of the packed maize-meal of the American Indians, on which they could exist for days when hunting or on the war-path. But even this hardy race finally abandoned it for the better known pemmican—dried chopped meat with grains mixed in, to which no straight cereal product can compare as a sustaining food. The German pea-sausage, or Erbswurst, has been much overpraised by those whose familiarity with it is scant. It is about as unsatisfactory a concentrate ration as any extent, and is actually inedible when uncooked, being of a nauseating, mustard, and raw flavour. It would seem that an emergency ration should above all things be edible, as it is to provide for the no remote contingency in which cooking facilities are lacking."

The finest known combination of sustaining and heating qualities among meat foods is a form of sausage with high fat content called by the French *boulet rame* (chain-shot). This is also used by the Belgians and the Germans. It is a winter food and is never issued for summer campaigning. The string is so formed that each ball constitutes a single substantial ration. To quote further:—

"There are more than a dozen varieties of compressed tea used by the Russian commissary, appearing in various forms—barab, tablet, disc, ball, etc. One is a high-grade whole-leaf tea. Compressed tea occupies very little space and preserves well.

## TO BE LET.

TO BE LET.—BUNGALOW at TAIFO, furnished, for 6 months or longer. Use of Motor Boat. Apply Alex. Ross & Co.

## WANTED.

WANTED.—TWO OR THREE LARGE OFFICE ROOMS in Central Locality. Apply to Tong Seng & Co., 19, Queen's Road, Central, Telephone No. 976

## NOTICES.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

ENGLISH MADE

GOLF SHOES

FOR LADIES & GENTLEMEN.

explore traffic has more capacity

CLIMATIC CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY  
CONSIDERED IN THE MAKING OF THESE SHOES  
AND WE RECOMMEND THEM FOR COMFORT  
AND DURABILITY.

NETTLETON SHOES.

- FOR THE MAN OF FASHION -

Tel. NEW MODELS

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692 FOR THE RACES.

692

JUST TO HAND

CALL AND INSPECT THEM.

J. T. SHAW

- SOLE AGENT -

NEXT DOOR TO THE HONGKONG HOTEL

## NOTICES.

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that the Ordinary Yearly Meeting of the Shareholders in this Corporation will be held at the CITY HALL, Hongkong, on SATURDAY the 23rd day of February, 1918, at Noon, for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Court of Directors together with a Statement of Accounts for the year ending the 31st December, 1917.

The Register of Shares of the Corporation will be CLOSED from MONDAY, the 11th February, to SATURDAY the 23rd February, 1918, (both days inclusive), during which period no transfer of shares can be registered.

By Order of the Court of Directors.

N. J. STABB.

Chief Manager.

Hongkong, 5th January, 1918.

## NOTICES.

HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LTD.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE NINETY-EIGHTH ORDINARY MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS in the Company will be held at the Office of the Company, Hotel Mansions, on TUESDAY, the 19th February, 1918, at 12 o'clock NOON, for the purpose of receiving a Report of the Directors together with a Statement of Accounts for the year ending the 31st December, 1917.

The Register of Shares of the Corporation will be CLOSED from MONDAY, the 11th February, to SATURDAY the 23rd February, 1918, (both days inclusive), during which period no transfer of shares can be registered.

By Order of the Court of Directors.

JOHN ARNOLD,

Acting Secretary.

Hongkong, 19th January, 1918.

SINGAPORE DOLLAR DIRECTORY IS BOOMING!

Send in Name and Address

NOW

For the 1918 issue of the HONGKONG DOLLAR DIRECTORY.

Editorial Director, Company

P.O. Box 431, Hongkong.

THE HONGKONG & SOUTH CHINA WAR SAVINGS ASSOCIATION.

APPLICATION forms for Membership of the above Association may be obtained from all the Banks or from the undersigned.

THE UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LTD.

Honorary Secretaries &

Treasurers.

Hongkong, 15th January, 1917.

## NOTICE.

THE UNITED BRITISH INSURANCE CO., LTD.

(Incorporated in the United Kingdom).

HAVING been appointed

MARINE AGENTS to the

above Company, we are prepared

to ACCEPT RISKS and issue

Policies at Current Rates.

UNION TRADING CO.,

Agents.

Queen's Buildings,

Hongkong, 1st February, 1918.

KEROSENE OIL.

We guarantee all kerosene oil sold by us to be pure and unadulterated.

Present price—

"WHITE ROSE."

\$5.55 per case ex store.

"COMET."

\$5.35 per case ex store.

CHING CHEONG

168 Des Voeux Road Central.

2 blocks West of Central Market.

KWONG YUEN.

19 Des Voeux Road, West.

## EARTHQUAKES

"There appears lately to have been a lot of loose hair found floating around in different parts of the Colony."

## "WATSON RESORCIN HAIR WASH."

will not only quickly restore those lost locks, but will so invigorate the scalp, as to render them immune from all other shocks.

In bottles at \$1.00 and \$1.50.

Prepared only by

**A. S. WATSON & Co., Ltd.,**

HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

Telephone 16.

Correspondents are requested to observe the rule which requires them to forward their names and addresses with communications addressed to the Editor, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of their bona fides.

All communications intended for publication should be addressed to the Editor.

Business correspondence should be sent to the Manager.

The rates of subscription to the "Hongkong Telegraph" will be as follows:—Daily issue—\$30 per annum. Weekly issue—\$13 per annum.

The rates per quarter and per month, proportional. Subscriptions for any period less than one month will be charged as for a full month.

The daily issue is delivered free when the addressee is accessible to messenger. Peak subscribers can have their copies delivered at their residences without any extra charge. Copies sent by post an additional \$1.80 per quarter is charged for postage. The postage on the weekly issue to any part of the world is \$1.00 per quarter.

Single Copies, Daily, ten cents. Weekly, twenty-five cents. (for cash only).

Advertisements and Subscriptions which are not ordered for a fixed period will be continued until countermanded.

(Payable in Advance.)

The "Hongkong Telegraph" is now on sale at, and will be delivered to subscribers by the Dairy Farm Company, Ltd., Shamian, Canton, who have been appointed our agents there.

By Order, "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH."

## BIRTH.

SUTTON.—At Yokohama, on the 14th inst., to Mrs. A. L. Sutton (of Manila), a son.

## The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1917.

## THE QUESTION OF AN INDEMNITY.

Every now and again comments filter through from enemy sources which show the astounding stupidity of the Germans in regard to the war settlement, and their utter failure to grasp the most elementary facts so far as the future is concerned. Such was the recent speech of the Finance Minister in the Bavarian Upper Chamber described. In it he spoke of the "appalling" growth of Bavarian expenditure and declared that it was self-evident that Germany must have an indemnity from the enemy. The desire may be self-evident; indeed, it is. But why, merely because Bavaria's growing expenditure is necessitating more taxation, the Entente should be expected to foot the bill? (And that is what the statement amounts to when boiled down) nobody but a German could possibly see.

We have spoken of this anticipation of an indemnity as a piece of stupidity—a willful blindness to future probabilities. There is, of course, one other standpoint from which it can be viewed, and that is an sop of comfort to the enemy taxpayer. The German militarists have managed to hide a good deal from the people of the Fatherland, but there are some things which are bound to be known from actual experience. One of them is the steady growth in taxation, and it is quite like the German leaders, when asking for more money, to hold up before the people a dazzling vision of the great indemnities which are to be forced from the Allies when peace is declared. If the German taxpayer is so simple-minded as to be deceived by rubbish of this kind, he is an even bigger fool than we had already taken him for. The exacting of an indemnity depends first of all on military victory, which is the very thing which Germany will never attain. The Bavarian Finance Minister must himself have had some little doubt on this point, since he admitted that the securing of the much-coveted indemnity depended on "military and political development." It certainly does, and one of those developments is involved in the question as to who will win the war. Happily, the Allies have no misgivings on that point. They have entered the conflict with an unquenchable determination to come out on top. They will not cease fighting till that result is reached. Then will be the time to talk of indemnities—indeemnities from Germany, not to her.

One wonders for what Germany expects to be indemnified. Possibly for having caused the war, over-run neutral territory, slaughtered innocent people and attempted to substitute Right by Might. We can think of little else that she has done to merit same. But these things hardly entitle her to expect payment of her expenses by the Entente peoples. They do, however, supply a very good reason why the Allies should look for full reparation for the devastation accomplished by the enemy hordes and the terrible suffering and misery which Prussian ambition has brought to the world. There are those who, when talking of a peace by settlement, would be quite content if Germany agreed to stop fighting and to shake hands and forget. But that is not the sort of peace which the Entente Governments are determined upon. More than a cessation of hostilities, even more than guarantees for the future, are required. Germany has to be punished for her savagery and her wickedness. And, unless we are sadly mistaken, part of the punishment will be the exactation of financial recompence. There will be an indemnity to face, to be sure. But the indemnity will have to come from Germany, and not from the sources anticipated by the Bavarian Finance Minister.

## Poor Russia!

The exit of Russia, as disclosed in one of yesterday's telegrams, is pathetic to a degree. Above all else, it reveals a most absolute misconception of the situation by those into whose hands the fate of the country has fallen. The peace negotiations have ended because the terms submitted "by German capitalist, supported by the silent co-operation of the Anglo-French bourgeoisie," are not acceptable. Therefore, while not yielding to the German conditions (which will, we imagine, be imposed now), the greater part of the Russian Army is being demobilised. We can quite well understand that Germany's annexationist terms are not to the liking of the Russians, but to suggest that "the Anglo-French bourgeoisie" has anything to do with the matter is the veriest moonshine. Such beliefs only show to what depths of ignorant prejudices extremists can descend. What has Russia gained by all the trouble of the negotiations with the enemy? Nothing but disgrace and a name for impracticability. And now the will be practically at the mercy of an unscrupulous neighbour. It is a sad state of affairs, but the Allies at any rate now know definitely where they stand in relation to the misguided Russians.

## Careless Contractors.

We suppose that since the time building operations were first commenced in the Colony there has been a good deal of more or less carelessness on the part of contractors' workmen when carrying out blasting operations. Though the police have been actively engaged in endeavouuring to impress this fraternity that a proper respect must be observed for life and limb, cases where due precautions are not taken to provide against accident are far too frequent to be pleasant. During the past few weeks an increasingly large number of those responsible for blasting operations have appeared in the Police Court and have been fined various sums to teach them that they cannot fire off their charges without seeing that the way is clear. But we venture to think the punishment meted out is not nearly as salutary as it should be if the practice is to be completely stamped out. Only last week one of these men was before the Magistrate for this offence, when it was proved conclusively that he gave no warning whatsoever that he was about to fire a charge, with the result that people in the street, and children playing in a school recreation ground within the area, narrowly escaped serious injury. Such negligence as this is nothing short of criminal, and the only fit penalty for those who will not observe the common rules of safety is one of imprisonment.

## Dog Licences.

We are pleased to see that the police have taken steps very early on in the New Year to ensure that no keeper of a dog has escaped the payment of the customary licence-money. That attention has first of all been directed to Conduit Road and Robinson Road levels, giving us still further pleasure. Judging by the nightly pandemonium made by dogs in this district, it would almost seem that the keeping of dogs was one of the conditions of a tenancy, and the poor householder who does not keep one has to pay in disturbed rest for more than he feels he is justly called upon to do. We know of some houses on the Conduit Road, and Robinson Road too, that keep not only one, two, or even three dogs, but five and six, all of whom are allowed sweet liberty during the night, with the result that they not only scare away any would-be housebreaker but deny rest to residents near by. The keeping of so many animals makes one wonder whether some restriction of numbers should not be a matter with which the Government might deal. If the cost of a licence were increased according to the number of dogs kept, it might deter inconsiderate dog-owners from keeping such large kennels, and thus free the neighbourhood from what is undoubtedly a serious nuisance. Dogs have a rightful place in house-guarding, but when they exceed that, and destroy the ordinary peacefulness of a residential district, public welfare demands that a curb should be placed on the numbers,

Before Mr. J. R. Wood, at the Police Court this morning, a Chinese was charged with breaking into a house in Eastern Street. It was stated by complainant that he heard a noise going on, and when he was thoroughly aroused, he went to investigate. As he got near the room where the noise was coming from, defendant and another man with clothing and other articles in their possession rushed down the stairs. The other man got away, but defendant was arrested. His Worshippent defendant to prison for three months.

## DAY BY DAY.

THERE ARE NO PANGS SO SICKENING AS THE SATIETIES OF PLEASURE.—Buckin.

To-morrow's Anniversary. To-morrow is the second anniversary of the wrecking of two Zeppelins off the Danish coast.

The Dollar. The opening rate of the dollar on demand to-day was 2. 11.5/8d.

War Work. The War Charities Stores Subcommittee will issue wool on Tuesday, at the City Hall, from 10 to noon, to all working parties making application in the usual way.

Kailan Output. The total output of the Kailan Mining Administration's mines for the week ending February 2, amounted to 60,314 tons and the sales during the period to 47,693 tons.

Western Medicine. The name of Lam Shing-kap, Shensi Chinese Public Dispensary, has been added to the list of medical practitioners trained in Western medical science who are authorised to grant death certificates.

The Colony's Health. During last week there were five cases of diphtheria (all Chinese), four of enteric fever (one British and the rest Chinese) and four of small-pox (all Chinese). Three of diphtheria and one of enteric fever terminated fatally.

Sanitary Appointments.

H. E. the Governor has made the following appointments:—Inspector W. Davitt to be a Sanitary Inspector for Kowloon City. Police Sergeant M. Earner to be a Sanitary Inspector for Aberdeen. Acting Lance-Sergeant G. Stoot to be a Sanitary Inspector for Stanley.

The Peak Hotel.

A meeting of the Licensing Board is to be held in the Council Chamber on Friday, the 22nd inst., at 12.30 p.m., for the purpose of considering an application by Flora Kao E-father Blair for a hotel keeper's adjacent licence for the Peak Hotel under the Liquors Consolidation Ordinance, 1911.

Indo-China S. N. Shares.

Says the *L. & C. Express* of November 28:—Indo-China Steam Navigation Company's shares, which have been a marked feature amongst shipping shares for some weeks, have continued their upward movement. The quotation has more than doubled in the last three months, and is attributed to rumours of a further shipping amalgamation.

Provisional Protection.

H. E. the Governor has granted to Marian Orembski, Herbert Charles Recker and Messrs. Butterfield and Swire as Agents for the Taikoo Sugar Refining Company, Limited, provisional protection for a period of nine months from the 7th day of February, 1918, for an invention for the preparation or manufacture of a vegetable decolorizing carbon called "Albit," pending the grant of Letters Patent.

Practical Sympathy.

We learn from the *Police Reserve Gazette* that the fund opened at the Hongkong Club by officers of the Police Reserve for the benefit of the dependents of those killed in the Gresson Street fire totalled \$9,332.50, in addition to which a fund at the Police Reserve Headquarters reached \$4,588.50, the Japanese community sent in \$854, and a sum of \$302 was received from the Kowloon-Dick Recreation Club. With the Chinese community's subscription of \$12,200, the grand total of these funds is \$27,437.

House-Breaking.

Before Mr. J. R. Wood, at the Police Court this morning, a Chinese was charged with breaking into a house in Eastern Street. It was stated by complainant that he heard a noise going on, and when he was thoroughly aroused, he went to investigate. As he got near the room where the noise was coming from, defendant and another man with clothing and other articles in their possession rushed down the stairs. The other man got away, but defendant was arrested. His Worshippent defendant to prison for three months.

## GRESSON STREET OUTRAGE.

One of the Robbers Charged.

Before Mr. J. R. Wood, at the Police Court this morning, one of the robbers connected with the Gresson Street affair was charged with the murder of Inspector Mortimer O'Sullivan, Sergeant Clarke, and the Chinese Detective Kwong Sang.

A second charge of the murder of Chan Leung, at Yummati on December 23, was also preferred against him. The case was remanded for a week.

It is more than likely that when the evidence is taken some new light will be thrown on the several tragic occurrences which have been disturbing the Colony of late.

## PRICE OF SILVER.

A Suggestion Regarding China.

In the House of Commons on November 27, Mr. Gershon Stewart asked Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether an arrangement has been made between the British Government and the Government of the United States whereby the price of silver has been fixed for a period of one year; and, if so, whether, with a view to preventing violent oscillations in exchange during the period of trade reconsignment after the war, he will endeavour to prolong the duration of the agreement for a further period of five years, and, if possible, to extend its scope by inviting France and China to join in supporting such an arrangement.

Mr. Bonar Law:—Discussions respecting the conclusion of an arrangement are now proceeding, but no agreement has yet been reached. I note the suggestion made by my Hon. Friend in the last part of the question; but I doubt if it would be practicable.

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## 1893.

HONGKONG TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO.

(Compiled from the "Hongkong Telegraph" files for the week ending February 23, 1893.)

## The Dollar.

February 16.—The rate of the dollar on demand to-day is 2/8d.

## The Fatshan Ashore.

February 20.—The Fatshan got ashore last Wednesday morning in a thick fog off the Salt Commissioner's sheen near Whampoa. As daylight broke, shots were heard in the neighbourhood, and the scores of sampans crowded around the steamer scuttled away in all directions. Soon two boats, each containing six men armed with revolvers, etc., were seen in sight, followed by wild shots from the salt-men's rifles. Two mandarins' junks intercepted their retreat, and a few exchanges probably followed.

## Quarry Bay Athletics.

February 20.—The two recreation clubs of East Point and Tai Foo Sugar Works combined forces and held a most successful athletic meeting on Friday last (Chinese New Year Day) at Quarry Bay. The weather was heavy and threatening in the morning, with a little rain, but the afternoon was fair, though cold.

There was a big muster of spectators, and the ladies' tent was very well filled, while, for the first time (probably) in the history of the Far East, the Ewo and Tai Foo flags were seen flying proudly over the same building.

The ladies and children were admirably entertained, having quite a magnificent programme of athletic exercises themselves, besides ample and excellent refreshments and most courteous attentions from the hospitable Tai Foo Boys.

## Messrs. Moke.

February 21.—The nickname of a new firm in Tientsin is "Ass, Donkey and Co." otherwise "Messrs. Moke."

## Tigers!

February 21.—The number of tigers prowling about Chinese Kowloon is increasing steadily. Two are said to have been seen on Sunday at Tsin-Sheng, or some such place, and to have eaten half a bullock.

## Descriptive Writing.

February 23.—What speculations might not the following, from the *Shaw's Canton Romance*

RACING NOTES.

Some Comment on To-day's Gallops.

With the Races only a little more than a week ahead, it was only to be expected that a very large crowd should assemble at Happy Valley this morning to witness the usual Saturday gallop, the crowd being the largest yet seen this season. Among those present were His Excellency the Governor (Sir Henry May) and we also noticed Mr. Suterle, the owner of the "Sand" stable, who arrived in the Colony from Manila yesterday. Mr. Vida, Sir Paul's rider, was also on the course and piloted two of the Dahlias in their work.

The course was an exceedingly fast one, the hurdles being down, thus permitting of actual racing conditions. The rail-side stands are now in position, and the enclosure is becoming quite gay with flowers.

As will be seen by the times given below, ponies are becoming more fast and are beginning to make fine finishes. Dealing with the Derby entrants, one of the best things of the morning was the gallop of Wild Cat, which did a mile and a half in 3 min. 25 2/5 secs. Tytam Chief went a mile and a quarter in 2 min. 49 secs., covering the last quarter in 32 4/5 secs. The much-favoured Salamander was the only pony to gallop on the inside course, his full time for the mile and a half being 3 min. 40 secs., with 32 secs. for the last quarter. Gentle Cat showed up well in his mile and a half, but John Peel's New Year and Xmas Day went a mile and a quarter and a mile and a half respectively in times much slower than those given above. Bantam Dahlia, with Vida riding, went a mile and a half in 3 min. 28 4/5 secs. Conquest Dahlia being even slower for the same distance, with 3 min. 30 secs. Windsor Dahlia made a good short gallop for an old pony, but far more comment was caused by the performance of the sub., Bubblehead, which did a mile in 2 min. 14 2/5 secs. In fact, there were a number of subscription griffins which made good times. Black Cat, Ebony Pearl, both the Monoses, Over There, Green Cloth, Second Violin and Not I, all showing that they have excellent chances. A perusal of the times below will reveal that on present form the Races this year are going to be as interesting and open as they have been for some years. All the times are, with the sole exception of Salamander, taken on the outside course.

Derby Griffins.  
Lucky-an. Mile.—35; 1 9 3/5; 1 4 3/5; 2 1/5.

Tytam Chief. Mile and a quarter.—33; 1 42; 2 16 1/5; 2 49.

Unique Dahlia. Mile.—35 2/5; 1 12; 1 47 1/5; 2 24 1/5.

New Year. Mile and a quarter.—36 2/5; 1 12; 1 48 2/5; 2 24; 2 57.

Korand. Mile and a half.—40; 1 18; 1 55; 2 31; 3 6; 3 42.

Wild Cat. Mile and a half.—38; 1 11; 1 45; 2 17 3/5; 2 51 2/5; 3 25 2/5.

Church Mouse. Mile and a half.—38 2/5; 1 13; 1 48 2/5; 2 24; 2 57.

Peckskill and Over There. Mile.—35; 1 10 1/5; 1 46; 2 17; (Over There), and 2 18 1/5 (Peckskill).

Andrew. Last mile and a quarter.—39; 1 17; 1 54; 2 28; 3 00.

Beeksend. Mile and a half.—39 1/5; 1 15; 1 49; 2 23; 2 55 1/5; 3 29.

Domino. Mile and a half.—39; 1 17 2/5; 1 53; 2 28 2/5; 3 2 1/5; 3 35 1/5.

Persian Cat and Siamese Cat. Mile and a half.—43 2/5; 1 18 2/5; 1 54; 2 29 2/5; 3 2 3 35 1/5.

Xmas Day. Mile and a half.—44; 1 21; 1 58 2/5; 2 32 3/5; 3 8; 3 41 2/5.

Bantam Dahlia. Mile and a half. (Vida up)—38 1/5; 1 12 3/5; 1 47; 2 21; 2 54 4/5; 3 28 4/5.

Fenning Chief. Mile and a quarter.—37; 1 13 4/5; 1 48 1/5; 2 22; 2 55.

Conquest Dahlia. Mile and a half.—36; 1 10 2/5; 1 43 3/5; 2 17 2/5; 2 53; 3 30.

Salamander. Mile and a half.—40 2/5; 1 18; 1 58 3/5; 2 31; 3 8; 3 40.

Gentle Cat. Mile and a half.—42; 1 20; 1 57; 2 34 3/5; 3 8 2/5; 3 29.

Maybe. Mile and a quarter.—34 1/5; 1 9; 1 43 3/5; 2 17; 2 49 4/5.

Old Ponies. Australian Chief. Mile.—42 3/5; 1 21; 1 57; 2 30.

Windsor Dahlia. Three quarters—33 2/5; 1 5 2/5; 1 37.

Coronet Dahlia. Three quarters—36; 1 8; 1 40 1/5.

Titlemouse. Last mile—38; 1 12 3/5; 1 48; 2 22.

Star of Doon. Last mile and a quarter—42 2/5; 1 20 2/5; 1 56 2/5; 2 30 3/5; 3 3 2/5.

Spo. Mile and a quarter—36; 1 5 3/5; 1 41; 2 15 2/5; 2 48.

Brayland. Mile and a half—39 4/5; 1 20; 2 1 2/5; 2 39 3/5; 3 15 2/5; 3 45 1/5.

Dandy Dahlia. Mile.—39; 1 15; 1 50; 2 23.

Merry Sund. Mile—37; 1 11; 1 45; 2 17 3/5.

Perfection Dahlia. Mile and a quarter—38; 1 13; 1 49; 2 23; 2 56 1/5.

Arizona. Mile—38; 1 12; 1 45; 2 17.

Esex Chief. Three quarters—35 2/5; 1 12; 1 44 1/5.

Sandy. Mile—37; 1 19 2/5; 2 20.

Maloo Chief. Mile and a quarter—33 2/5; 1 7; 1 42; 2 16 3/5; 2 51.

Glorious Pearl. Last half—38; 1 9 1/5.

Attraction Dahlia. Mile—35; 4/5; 1 13; 1 46 3/5; 2 18.

King Dick. Last three quarters—37; 1 12 3/5; 1 48 1/5.

Anticipation. Last mile and a half—39 1/5; 1 15; 1 51; 2 57 1/5; 3 31.

Kigan Chief. Mile and a quarter—36; 1 13 4/5; 1 48 1/5; 2 22; 2 55.

Fairylight. Mile and a half—45; 1 24; 2 2; 2 39; 3 14 2/5; 3 46 2/5.

Adventure. Mile and three quarters—42; 1 20 1/3; 1 58 4/5; 2 31 4/5; 3 7; 3 41 1/5; 4 15.

Brownhouse. Mile and a quarter—44; 1 20; 1 54; 2 27 2/5; 3 2 1/5.

Subscription Griffins.

Bubblesend. Mile—35; 1 9 3/5; 1 43 1/5; 2 14 2/5.

Tabby Cat. Mile and a quarter—37 3/5; 1 13 3/5; 1 49 1/5; 2 23 1/5; 2 56 2/5.

Morning Glory and Ole Bill. Mile—37; 1 13 4/5; 1 48 1/5; 2 22.

Black Cat. Mile and a quarter—38; 1 13; 1 49; 2 22; 2 53 4/5.

Ebony Pearl. Three quarters—32; 1 5; 1 39.

Madew Mouse. Mile and a half—43; 1 21; 1 54; 2 28; 3 3 1/5; 3 43 2/5.

Sam-and. Mile and a half—40; 1 18; 1 55; 2 31; 3 6; 3 42.

Doubtful. Last mile and a quarter—35 3/5; 1 10 4/5; 1 46; 1 5/5; 2 21 1/5; 2 56.

Balcarry. Last mile and a quarter—35 3/5; 1 10 4/5; 1 46; 1 5/5; 2 21 1/5; 2 58.

Xmaslight. Mile and a half—28 2/5; 1 13 1/5; 1 47 2/5; 2 21 1/5; 2 58; 3 31.

Dividend. Mile—33; 1 6; 1 40; 2 15.

King Tom. Mile—38; 1 12; 1 45; 2 17.

White Cat. Mile—33; 1 6; 1 40; 2 15.

White Osk and Befus. Three quarters—34 3/5; 1 9 2/5; 1 45.

Sister Dahlia. (Vida) Three quarters—35 1/5; 1 10 1/5; 1 43.

Stanley Chief. Three quarters—36 2/5; 1 12; 1 44 1/5.

Hagis. Last mile and a half—38; 1 15; 1 51; 2 26 2/5; 3 1; 3 34.

Shatin Chief. Mile and a quarter—33 2/5; 1 7; 1 42; 2 16 3/5; 2 53.

Rockhouse. Mile and a half—41 2/5; 1 16 3/5; 1 50 1/5; 2 25 2/5; 3 00 2/5; 3 32 2/5.

Green Cloth. Mile—38 2/5; 1 13 1/5; 1 47; 2 19.

Biplane. Last three quarters—37; 1 12 3/5; 1 49 1/5.

Peckskill and Over There. Mile—35; 1 10 1/5; 1 46; 2 17; (Over There), and 2 18 1/5 (Peckskill).

White Cat. Mile—33; 1 6; 1 40; 2 15.

Rockhouse. Mile and a half—41 2/5; 1 16 3/5; 1 50 1/5; 2 25 2/5; 3 00 2/5; 3 32 2/5.

Green Cloth. Mile—38 2/5; 1 13 1/5; 1 47; 2 19.

Biplane. Last three quarters—37; 1 12 3/5; 1 49 1/5.

Herod and Nevand. Mile and a half—35; 1 23; 2 00; 2 36; 3 12; 3 47 1/5.

Marmie. Mile and a half—45 1/5; 1 23 2/5; 2 00; 2 36; 3 6 1/5; 3 41.

Second Violin. Mile and a half—41 1/5; 1 18; 1 54; 2 28; 3 3; 3 34 2/5.

King Jim. Mile—36; 1 13 1/5; 1 47 2/5; 2 20.

Snuffbox (joined by Puffbox for last half mil.). Mile and a quarter—35; 1 13; 1 41; 1 5/5; 2 24 2/5; 2 56.

Wallace. Mile—36; 1 10; 1 44; 2 17 2/5.

Sonrise Dahlia. Three quarters—32; 1 6; 1 41.

Sonrise Dahlia. Three quarters—32; 1 6; 1 42.

Kingsway. Mile and a half—40; 1 18 2/5; 1 56; 2 31 2/5; 3 00.

Old Ponies. Australian Chief. Mile—42 3/5; 1 21; 1 57; 2 30.

SINN FEIN AND CONVENTION.

Mr. De Valera's "Bird in the Hand."

A Daily News correspondent writes:—The suggestion that the Prime Minister might visit Ireland and address the Convention has aroused much interest in Dublin. Observers who come in contact with men in all political camps hold strongly that for many months past has the Irish situation been so favourable for a bold and generous settlement. It is obvious that the responsible Sinn Fein leaders have lately been taking stock of their position, and it is equally obvious that knowledge of the preparations which the Government has made, quietly and without ostentation, to meet any outbreak of disorder, has brought both the leaders and all sensible men of the rank and file sharply up against realities. The warnings of clerical advisers, and particularly the outspoken declaration of Cardinal Logue, have had a visibly steady influence.

The effect of these diverse influences is seen in recent speeches.

Mr. De Valera has now declared openly and explicitly that if the Convention does give him a "bird in the hand," he is prepared to accept it as an instalment on account.

The metaphor may be mixed, but the meaning is clear. The original Sinn Fein demand, ten years ago, was for the restitution of Grattan's Parliament, and all the signs indicate that Mr. De Valera's political education has brought him to the same position as Parnell when the latter declared: "We cannot, under the British Constitution, ask for more than the restitution of Grattan's Parliament, but no man has a right to fix the boundary of the march of a nation."

At this moment it might be in the power of either the Prime Minister or General Smuts to dissipate suspicion and distrust, and also to prove to Sinn Fein that the Convention was established, not to kill time, but with the sincere purpose of producing a settlement scheme acceptable to all parties in Ireland. My own impression is that if General Smuts came to Ireland not, as has been suggested, to displace the present Executive, but to use his unique experience and powers as a conciliator, his mission would succeed even better than the intervention of the Prime Minister.

**TO-DAY'S ADVERTISEMENTS.**

G. R.

PUBLIC WORK DEPARTMENT.

IT IS HEREBY notified that sealed tenders in duplicate, which should be clearly marked "Tenders for the supply of Castings," will be received at the Colonial Secretary's Office until Noon of MONDAY, the 25th day of February, 1918, for the supply and delivery of Iron and Brass

Castings, Manufactured Iron-work, etc., to the Public Works Department for about nine months ending on December 31st, 1918.

Each Tenderer must produce with his tender a receipt that he has deposited in the Colonial Treasury the sum of \$500 (Dollars Five hundred) as a pledge of the bona fides of his tender, which sum shall be forfeited if the Crown should the Tenderer refuse or fail to carry out, to the satisfaction of the Government, the whole or any portion of his tender which may be accepted. The deposit will be returned to any Tenderer whose tender is not accepted.

The Government does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender, and shall be at liberty to accept any tender in whole or in part for any one or more of the articles offered.

For form of tender

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Hongkong, 1st April, 1917.E. V. D. Parr,  
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The above steamers have excellent saloon accommodation for passengers and are fitted with all modern conveniences and carry a duly qualified surgeon.

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DAVID SASSOON & CO., LTD.,  
Hongkong, Sept. 24, 1917. Agents.**PACIFIC MAIL S.S. CO.**  
U. S. MAIL LINE.Operating the new First Class Steamers  
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14,000 tons Each.  
Hongkong to San Francisco,  
via Shanghai, Kobe, Yokohama and HONOLULU.THE SUNSHINE BELT.  
The most comfortable route to America and Europe.

Sailing from Hongkong at noon.

s.s. "ECUADOR". Feb. 27th, 1918.

s.s. "COLOMBIA". Mar. 27th,

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These steamers have the most modern equipment including overhead electric fans and electric lighting ALL LOWER BERTHS &amp; Large Comfortable Staterooms (all single and two berths only).

The Safety and Comfort of Passengers is our First Consideration. Special care is given to the cuisine, and the attendance on passengers cannot be surpassed.

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For further information, rates, literature, schedules etc.

Apply to:- Company's Office in  
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Telephone No. 141.

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Projected Sailings from Hongkong—

Destination.	Subject to Alteration		Sailing Date
	Steamers.	Sailers.	
L'DON via Singa- pore, Malacca, Penang, Colombo, Delagoa Bay, Cape Town, Madeira...			
VICTORIA, B.C. & SEATTLE via: Shai, Nagasaki, Kobe, Yokohama and Yokohama ...	sFushimi Maru Capt. Iriawa	T. 21,000 { WEDNES. Mar., at 10 a.m.	
SHANGHAI, Kobe and Yokohama ...	Slyo Maru Capt. Takanu	T. 12,500 { WEDNES., 20th Feb. at 11 a.m.	
SHANGHAI, Kobe and Yokohama ...	Kihano Maru Capt. Cope	T. 16,000 { THURS., 7th Mar. at 11 a.m.	
NAGASAKI, Kobe and Yokohama ...	Stango Maru Capt. Atahara	T. 13,500 { SATUR., 16th Feb. at 11 a.m.	
KOBE	Fusko Maru Capt. Ogawa	T. 8,030 { SATURDAY, 16th Feb.	
	Yelotoro Maru Capt. Kitamura	T. 8,000 { 23rd Feb.	

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Sailings from Hongkong—Subject to change without notice.

Steamer	Tons	Leave Hongkong
PESSIA MARU	19,000	22nd Feb.
KOREA MARU	18,000	9th Mar.
SIBERIA MARU	18,000	22nd Mar.
TERYO MARU	22,000	9th April.
HIPPON MARU	11,000	15th April.
SHINTO MARU	22,000	27th April.

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BALBOA, CALLAO, ABICA AND IQUIQUE.

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Steamers Tona, 15,500  
Anjo Maru, 17,500  
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For full information as to rates, sailings, etc. apply to

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## JAPAN AND COAST PORTS.

Haiphong	Lok sang	J. M. Co.	17, Feb.
Shanghai	Taisang	J. M. Cu.	19, Feb.
Sunning	B. & S.	N. Y. K.	19, Feb.
Shanghai, Kobe and Yokohama	Iyo M.	D. L. Co.	21, Feb.
Swatow, Amoy and Foochow	Haihong	Mausang	21, Feb.
Sandakan		B. & S.	21, Feb.
Shanghai	Shantung	J. M. Co.	22, Feb.
Manila	Loonggang	J. C. J. L.	23, Feb.
Java and Singapore	Gontoer	N. Y. K.	23, Feb.
Kobe	Yeteroff	B. & S.	26, Feb.
Shanghai	Suiyang	J. M. Co.	29, Feb.
Manila	Yuen sang	J. C. J. L.	2, Mar.
Kobe	Boeroe	J. C. J. L.	4, Mar.
Java	Tjikini	Kitano M.	5, Mar.
Shanghai, Kobe and Yokohama	Tjibodas	J. C. J. L.	8, Mar.
Yokohama and Kobe	Rindjani	J. C. J. L.	9, Mar.
Java and Singapore	Tjitaroom	J. C. J. L.	11, Mar.

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## WATER RETURN.

Level and Storage of water in Reservoirs on February 1, 1918.

## CITY AND HILL DISTRICT WATER WORKS LEVEL.

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## REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

## MORE V. C. HEROES.

## Details of Some Gallant Exploits.

London, February 12.

Another series of heroic acts is gazetted in a list of twelve recipients of the Victoria Cross, of whom seven sacrificed their lives in the exploits. They include the following:

The late Lieut.-Col. Neville Elliott-Osoper, of the Royal Fusiliers, who, learning that the enemy had broke through an outpost line and was advancing across the open, rushed out from his dug-out, mounted the parapet and dashed forward, calling on a reserve Company and details of the Battalion at Headquarters to follow. Absolutely unarmed, he made a bee-line for the enemy and, leading our men, forced back the enemy six hundred yards. He was severely wounded when forty yards ahead.

The late Captain Walter Stone, Royal Fusiliers, though ordered to withdraw his company and leave the rearguard, owing to an expected attack, remained when he realised the unexpected rapidity of the onslaught. He proceeded to telephone most valuable information under a tremendous bombardment and was seen fighting to the last when the rearguard was surrounded and cut to pieces.

Lieutenant Samuel Wallace, of the Field Artillery, when the personnel of the battery was reduced to five and surrounded, maintained fire by swinging trails bound close together, enabling his men to serve the guns, thereby rendering most valuable support to other troops. He was in action for eight hours.

Sergeant Cyril Gourley, of the Field Artillery, though closely beset, fired a gun at short range in full enemy view all day long and kept the enemy in check.

The late Private Walter Mills of the Manchester, despite the fact that he was badly gassed, continued to bomb a strong enemy patrol single-handed until the arrival of reinforcements. The enemy was sorely defeated owing to his exertions and the line remained intact. Mills died from gas-poisoning.

## THE UKRAINE PEACE.

London, February 13.

According to Reuter's correspondent at Paris, the French Press, commenting on the Ukraine peace, emphasises that Germany courted trouble with Poland by allocating three Polish Provinces to the Ukrainians and consequently the Polish Army would still play a part in the struggle.

According to Reuter's correspondent at Amsterdam, a message from Vienna says that the Austrian Polish Party has broken off relations with the Vienna Government because the Ukraine peace assigned the Bohemian Government to Ukraine.

The Kaiser has resumed a truculent tone as a result of the Ukraine peace. He has telegraphed to Count Berling that the cord of Germany's enemies has at length been broken by the victorious German armies. He has also telegraphed the Managing Director of the Norddeutsche Lloyd that the German sword has opened a door which must lead to a general peace.

The *Rheinisch-Westfälische Zeitung*, in a remarkable article, says that Germany's gains from Russia are too modest. Germany must have all Poland and White Russia. Moreover Russia conceals enormous explosive forces which are bound to affect the German masses and endanger Monarchies. Therefore a reckoning with Great Britain remains inevitable. "Without the sea a cultured people cannot prosper."

## ITALY'S DETERMINATION.

London, February 13.

Reuter's correspondent at Rome states that, speaking in the Chamber of Deputies, Signor Orlando emphasised Italy's inflexible determination to continue the war from motives of self-preservation and the attainment of national ideals. The deliberations at Versailles had inspired the fullest confidence. As far as could be humanly seen, there was one factor alone which must greatly improve the situation, and that was growing American assistance. The Versailles Conference had emphasised the necessity of close Allied cohesion on the Western Front concurrently with freedom of responsibility for each Allied Command. Such autonomy command was due to reasons of general utility and not the considerations of national amour propre.

## NORWEGIAN SHIPPING LOSSES.

London, February 13.

Up to January 31, 714 Norwegian merchantmen, whose total tonnage is over a million tons, have been lost owing to the war. Eight hundred and eighty-three seamen have been drowned and 53 Norwegian ships, with crews totalling over 700, are posted as missing. About two-thirds of the latter are war losses.

## THE RUSSO-GERMAN SITUATION.

London, February 13.

Reuter's correspondent at Amsterdam says that news from Berlin indicates that the population's joyful reception of Trotsky's anomalous Russo-Quadruplo peace declaration is not shared by the press, which dwells on Germany's difficulties in future dealings with Russia.

## PIANO RECITAL.

1.—Polonaise Prelude	...Chopin.
Prelude	
Nocturne	
Bellade	
2.—Allegro (Sonata 2)	...Sjögren.
Mr. W. McQuade and Mrs. Black.	
3.—De Profundis...B. Gardiner. Hunting Song...E. Isaacs. Rifles...Debussy.	
Arabesque...Arensky.	
Capriccio...Brahms.	
Autumn...Chaminade.	
Sphinx...C. Scott.	
West Wind...Karajan.	
Caprice...Debussy.	
E-pagno...Mozart.	
4.—Swing Song...E. Barnes.	
Cansonetta...Ambrosio.	
Mr. W. McQuade.	
5.—Study Dream of Love...Lizet. La Campanella	

By kind permission of His Excellency the Governor, Mr. Denman Fuller will give a piano recital, which is open to the public, at Government House on Monday, at 9.15 p.m. The entire proceeds will be given intact to the Fund for Prisoners of War and the Ladies Emergency Committee of the Navy League. Mr. W. McQuade will be the violinist and Mrs. Black the accompanist, the following in the programme:

## THE SWATOW EARTHQUAKE.

## Additional News of the Disaster.

Though much news is going round the Colony of the damage done in Swatow and the number of deaths which have occurred in consequence of the earthquake experienced in the port, only the most disjointed scraps of information are yet to be picked up. Letters have been received here and there, but all have been written under great stress, and, while they give a certain amount of information of an authentic nature, they do not describe fully all that has happened. The writers are mostly concerned to let their Hongkong firms know how they have fare, but, reading between the lines, one can plainly realise that the happenings have been most terrible and the damage will compare with the worst typhoon that have been experienced in China. Though we write more or less in the dark as to the true state of affairs, it is perfectly obvious that it will be many a long day before the town is able to resume its normal life. It is in absolute ruins, bodies are continually being discovered under the debris, injured persons are being dug out, and the hospitals are full to overflowing with patients, hundreds of them being terribly mangled. Now has come through to the effect that several are minus arms and legs. It is one of the saddest happenings that has ever taken place in China. Frossell that can be gathered, no Europeans are among the victims and there is nothing to show that any have even been injured, though European, like the thousands of Chinese, dwellings have suffered more or less though, of course, not quite to the same extent, as in most cases they are more substantially built. However, their structure has not nearly strong enough to withstand the severe shock which struck them.

Apparently there has been considerable damage at other northern ports, Amoy suffering slightly, but it would appear that the first reports received of Amoy being razed to the ground were incorrect, the news now received pointing to the fact that the damage done is only comparatively slight. A wire has been received in Hongkong, in reply to a message sent from here, that slight damage has been done at Taipei, in Formosa, but here again the news is of the most meagre description and we shall have to wait some days for other information to filter through before any authentic information can be given.

From Swatow there is ample news to show the seriousness of the visitation there. By far the most interesting letter on the subject is that received by the Asiatic Petroleum Company, which states that the main shock was felt at 2.10 p.m. on the 13th, but that there were many lesser tremors felt afterwards, the next biggest shock being felt at 4.20 a.m. on the 14th. The letter says that the earthquake was very severe and it caused extensive damage and loss of life. The houses on the Kekchew side do not appear to have suffered so very much, most damage being done to houses on the other side. The entire place, says the letter, is in ruins. Mr. Griffin says that he had just got outside the building when he saw the whole front of the Customs House cave in. People were running hither and thither in a state of panic, and there was indescribable confusion. At the time of writing, thousands of people were camping out in the open, afraid to enter their houses. Fortunately the weather was brilliant. One trembles to think of the situation had bad weather been prevailing. The position and discomfort would have been far more aggravated had rain descended. Mr. Griffin goes on to say that the Southern troops in the port have been carrying on a fine work. Besides helping considerably to relieve the suffering of the poor homeless people, they have made themselves responsible for the maintaining of some semblance of order. From this letter it appears that Chao Chow Fa was also affected, the railway line between Chao Chow Fa and Swatow being broken, the trains only going part of the way.

There has been enormous damage to property in Swatow itself and a great loss of life among the Chinese, but so far as Mr. Griffin was aware at the time he wrote the letter, there is nothing known of any foreigner being killed or injured.

Persistent news states that a tidal wave at Amoy has done considerable damage but as yet, as in the case of many other reports, there has been no opportunity of verifying the rumour.

## ALLEGED COAL PROFITEERING.

## Colliery Company Charged at Liverpool.

An important prosecution—the first of its kind—under the Price of Coal (Limitation) Act, 1915, was opened at Liverpool before Mr. Stuart Deacon, the stipendiary magistrate, when Mr. H. S. Higginbottom and the New Moss Colliery Company were summoned for selling coal at prices exceeding by more than the standard amount per ton the "corresponding prices" under the statute. There were in all 15 summonses.

Mr. Greaves Lord, who prosecuted for the Director of Public Prosecutions, said that Mr. Higginbottom was the controlling shareholder and director of the New Moss Colliery. The Act under which the informations were laid was passed to prevent profiteering in coal and the charging of outrageous prices. It provided that coal at the pit's mouth should not be sold or offered for sale at a price exceeding by more than the standard amount per ton the price of coal of the same description, sold in similar quantities, and under similar conditions affecting the sale, at the same mine on the corresponding date in the 12 months ended June 30, 1914.

It was further enacted that the standard amount should be 4s. It was important that it should be known to everyone in the trade that the Government took the view that the Act should be enforced with the utmost rigour. He was bound to say that, if the facts were proved, it was a case which should be regarded asalling for the utmost penalties.

At the beginning of the year two members of the staff of the Coal Mines Department visited Liverpool, and as a result of their inquiries the present informations were issued. An arrangement had been come to between himself and Mr. Glover, who appeared for the defendants, that after the trials and proceedings on which they (the prosecution) relied had been put in, the stipendiary should refer the question of prices to the Board of Trade.

The first information concerned the offering for sale in September of 5,000 ton of screened gas coal to Messrs. Bennick, Wilton, and Co., of Torquay. The contract price on which that charge was based was 22s. 6d. a ton at the pit. The corresponding price was not more than 14s. 6d., so that the price ought not to have been greater than 18s. 6d. In the second case the contract was alleged to have been 7s. above the legal price, while in other cases the prices alleged to have been charged were 6s., 7s. 6s., and 3s. 9d. above the legal price.

Mr. Glover said that the point which would have to be decided was what was the corresponding price, and that question would have to be submitted to the Board of Trade. He was instructed that all the prices charged by his clients had been justified, and they were most desirous that the opinion of the Board on them should be obtained.

The stipendiary adjourned the case sine die, the question of the corresponding price to be referred to the Board of Trade.

## An Appeal.

Mr. A. P. Stokes asks us to notify those who have goods to advertise, and who desire to benefit the Mercantile Marine in England and the Naval Prisoners of War, that advertisements to appear in the programme of the entertainment to take place at the Theatre Royal on Saturday next, will be very welcome. Those who wish to advertise are kindly asked to send form of advertisement to Mr. A. P. Stokes, King's Lynn, not later than Tuesday evening, accompanied by a cheque for £25 or as much more as the advertisers feel disposed to give.

## Building Materials Committee.

The Minister of Reconstruction has appointed Mr. Clement B. Broad and Mr. W. J. Jones to be members of the Building Materi-

## PRISONERS IN SWITZERLAND.

## Instruction of our Soldiers.

A Red Cross correspondent of the Times writes:—When the Press of the belligerent countries writes of the profit which neutrals are making out of the war the Swiss shrug their shoulders and point to their hotels. Certainly when one walks out of the station at Lucerne and crosses the bridge the row of gaunt, shivering piles is a melancholy spectacle.

Some of the largest hotels in Lucerne were built only just before the war, and were hardly opened before they found their business at a standstill. One wonders whether they will ever open again, and tries to take comfort in the steamer, which are still plying on the lake. On the lake of Geneva they have stopped running for lack of coal, but on the lake of Lucerne they are a necessity, and will doubtless continue as long as Switzerland has any coal to spare for transport.

There is nothing gay about Lucerne except the German uniforms. They are of all colours and cuts and look admirably new. I suspect that an economical Government is using up material that dates from before the war.

These blues and reds that give a touch of colour to the city would mean death in the trenches; so they are displayed at Lucerne, and it is a rare thing there to see field-grey. Lucerne is one of the chief centres of the German interned, and palpably suits them. They hear their own language spoken around them; they are near their own frontier; they can easily send for their wives and children—or Sunday one saw them taking their families to church; Lucerne may not be gay, but it is gayer than a camp surrounded by barbed wire, and they are content to step into the tourists' shoes and promenade by the lakeside in front of the deserted hotels. Not that they look back with resentment upon the land of their captivity. They showed that they did not by the way they saluted the British officer in whose company I was.

It is the rule in Switzerland that soldiers of all armies salute officers of all armies, and German discipline is well known. But from the manner of their salutation they did not appear to be performing an odious task.

There was humour in the situation. The British officer—one of those in charge of the British interned prisoners in Switzerland—was a conspicuous figure: nearer seven than six feet high, I should judge, and wearing the full uniform of a British Staff officer, since he was engaged on an official tour of inspection to the internment camps. "Is he a German?" civilians whispered to each other as we walked to our hotel. I do not know whether the German soldiers thought he was a German or not, but they were acutely conscious of his presence, and he was somewhat embarrassed by the shower of salutes. But he could not be embarrassed for long; the salutes were too frequent and came too much as a matter of course; and soon he was acknowledging them as mechanically as if he had been walking through some London street.

Seeburg, like Lucerne, has been empty since the beginning of the war. It is the property of Major Mitchell, and he had made it into one of the centres of the Polytechnic Touring Association of London. With the war the flow of tourists ceased, but here, as in England, the war has begun to fill the gaps it has made itself.

Seeburg—under the auspices of Mrs. Mitchell, for Major Mitchell is at work in London—is to become a centre for the technical instruction of British prisoners of war, and when I visited it on October 24, I found that the instructors sent out by the British Red Cross had just arrived.

To talk with them one would have imagined that they had come from some peaceful country, and a great loss of life among the Chinese, but so far as Mr. Griffin was aware at the time he wrote the letter, there is nothing known of any foreigner being killed or injured.

Persistent news states that a tidal wave at Amoy has done considerable damage but as yet, as in the case of many other reports, there has been no opportunity of verifying the rumour.

## Building Materials Committee.

The Minister of Reconstruction has appointed Mr. Clement B.

a sore point with the Swiss that there are bread cards here while there are none in England or France, and to hear Englishmen complain of Swiss bread will be hard for the Swiss to bear. It will not make them feel more kindly towards the blockade, with which the bread cards, in their minds, are so intimately connected.

Yet it may serve as a powerful, because unpremeditated, demonstration of the extremely favourable economic position in which the Entente finds itself as compared with the Central Powers.

But the instructors were too busy with their work to trouble themselves deeply over the economic situation. Their first task is to go round the British camps—and these are at present scattered all over Switzerland—and pick their men. The men selected will be assembled at two centres—Seeburg for the carpentering, electrical, and watch-making courses, and Meiringen for tailoring and leather work. It is then that the difficulties of the instructors will begin. The difficulty of raw materials is not so great, for there is still timber, at any rate, in Switzerland; and the instructors in tailoring and leather-work have brought out with them supplies of leather and cloth. The greater difficulty is that of tools and technique, for carpentering tools and electrical fittings are not made on the same pattern on the Continent as in England or America, and if the learner is instructed only in Continental methods he will be at a loss when he returns to England after the war and wishes to exercise his newly acquired craft.

But the instructors are men of experience, and are taking these problems in hand.

For the moment their task is of a manageable size. There are only 700 British interned in Switzerland now, for about the same number were repatriated to England a few weeks ago, and no further batches from Germany have yet arrived. The French, with their 12,000 interned, have been able to do things on a larger scale. They have a commercial school at Vevey, large workshops in the Rhone Valley, and a thousand students in the Swiss universities—they have even supplied some temporary professors to Geneva and Neuchâtel.

The prisoners, of course, are not under French or British control. The direct command over them is vested in the Swiss military authorities, and the French and British bureaux which have been established for their benefit are avoided by a system of grouping. Of course there should be no interference with denominational interests. Small schools had compensating advantages.

Teachers could exercise deeper and more continuous influence. There was a higher standard of knowledge in the man who came from Scotland into the Army—this was noticeable from the books they read in the hospitals—than among a similar class from England, and he attributed this to instruction given in schools by teachers who were imbued with the university spirit. Until we had men and women of this type, regarding elementary teaching as a noble vocation, we should not obtain the results obtained in Scotland. A second great advantage in small schools was that managers and teachers could get a close knowledge of the children and could direct them towards careers for which it fitted them. The excellence of the best secondary school in England—Winchester—was partly due to its being comparatively small, so that the headmaster could know all the boys. The atmosphere around rural schools was not always favorable to educational progress. The fathers of our country were not all converted to the benefits of education, but he had been struck by the fact that a small number of enlightened devoted men and women could exercise enormous influence on education in a country, and that was an encouraging feature. The causes for leaving the villages were low wages, bad housing, insufficient social amusement, and want of opening for career. It must be realised that agriculture would become more scientific, and that machinery and technical processes would develop if there were to be any systems of small ownership and co-operation there must be increased knowledge among rural children. He would like to have among the children the Brooks Station of the Iron and Steel Prodigies Department of Education, a little more than half a mile away.

## RURAL EDUCATION.

Mr. Fisher on the Needs of the Countryside.

Mr. H. A. L. Fisher, President of the Board of Education, addressed a meeting of members and friends of the General Association of Church School Managers and Teachers recently in Church House, Westminster. Lord Parmoor, chairman of the association, was in the chair.

Mr. Fisher said that our educational system depended on the co-operation of agencies differing in composition and various in their outlook from the Board of Education to the stern and watchful ratepayer. Our system made for variety of experiments and nice adjustment to the needs of a locality, though it might be accompanied by great differences in standard of efficiency. It was national, while it admitted the continued existence of denominational religious teaching. One of the consequences of the voluntary schools was the existence of a very large number of small schools, and the difficulty of obtaining good teachers, and since in small schools individual influence was greater than it was in large schools, a special responsibility for the selection of teachers rested on the managers. For these teachers there should be provided opportunities for further intellectual and social development. The capacity for imparting religious instruction and for making Biblical lessons interesting, was not with the young teacher. It

## COMMERCIAL NEWS.

**Japanese Pensils.**  
There are at present over twenty lead pencil manufacturers in Tokyo alone, and monthly exports reach six million pensils. The graphite is found in Japan, but is not of good quality. Before the war Japan made only 400,000 gross a year, and Germany held almost all the trade.

**China's Salt Surplus.**  
The net salt revenue paid into Group Banks during the year 1917 amounts to \$70,837,249.00 which shows a decrease of \$1,813,310.00 as compared with the net revenue realised in 1916 (\$72,440,559), but an increase of \$1,349,713.00 as compared with the net revenue realised in 1915 (\$69,277,583). All obligations accrued up the salt revenue were fully met and the release of surplus funds helped over during 1917 to the Chinese Government amounting to \$88,613.310.00.

**3,000 Per Cent. Dividend.**  
Of the enormous dividends so far paid by Japanese companies, the largest was 1,000 per cent. paid by the now defunct Obatai Kisen Kai-ha. This second, however has now been broken by a very large margin. The Chinese Kabushiki Kai-sha, of Bairan, which is practically a tributary of the Kobe Pier Company (which for the last term has announced a dividend of 100 per cent.) realised a net profit of Y. 1,782,643 during the past term, and has allotted Y. 1,500,000 for the payment of dividends. Its paid-up capital being only Y. 50,000, the dividend is 3,000 per cent.

**Indragiri Rubber Co.**  
The following is the report of the above Company submitted at the statutory meeting, on February 18, at Messrs. Evans and Co's offices:—"The total number of shares allotted is 130,000 of which 100,000 are allotted as fully paid in consideration of the transfer to the Company of the undertaking and assets of The Indragiri (Sumatra) Rubber and Guttapercha Company, Ltd, in accordance with the Agreement dated 16th August, 1917, between The Indragiri (Sumatra) Rubber and Guttapercha Company, Ltd, and its Liquidator and this Company and upon each of 29,074 shares the sum of \$3 has been paid in cash and on 926 shares the sum of \$1 has been paid in cash. The total amount of cash received by the Company in respect of the shares issued wholly for cash is \$88,148. The estimate of preliminary expenses of the Company is \$4,000."

**Coal Output of United States.**  
Present coal shortage in the United States is due to causes other than lack of mine output as indicated by a compilation by the National City Bank of New York, which estimates the total output of 1917 as greater than any earlier year, and shows the United States actually produces nearly 45 per cent. of the coal of the world. In 1916 the percentage was 44, in 1910 43, in 1890 34, in 1880 21, and in 1870 15. Coal production of the United States has grown from less than half a million short tons in 1830 to 590,000,000 tons in 1916, and an estimate of 650,000,000 short tons in 1917. In 1913 the United States produced 570,000,000 short tons, compared with 322,000,000 in Great Britain, 306,000,000 in Germany, 80,000,000 in Austria-Hungary, 45,000,000 in France, 38,000,000 in Russia, 25,000,000 in Belgium and 24,000,000 in Japan.

Pensylvania is by far the largest coal-producing State, her total aggregating nearly 250,000,000 tons. Present indications are that the anthracite production of 1917 will aggregate about 100,000,000 short tons, out of a total coal production of approximately 650,000,000 short tons in entire United States. United States exports are much less than those of certain countries having a much smaller supply. Great Britain's coal exports in 1913 the latest normal year, were 82,000,000 short tons and Germany about 37,000,000 short tons, while the United States in the fiscal year 1913 exported only about 23,000,000 short tons. The 1917 exports were valued at \$83,000,000, compared with \$6,000,000 in 1910.

## SHARE REPORT.

## COMPARATIVE SHARE QUOTATIONS.

Today's Closing Prices	STOCK.	Number of Shares	Par Value	Paid Up	Highest	Lowest	Highest to Date	Lowest to Date	Last Dividend and Date	
									1915.	1915.
<b>Banks.</b>										
n. 1630	F.K. & S'hai Banking Corp.	120,000	\$125	all	845 Sept.	785 May	820	545		
b. 4310	Marine Insurance.	10,000	\$250	50	427 Sept.	340 Jan.	426	290		
b. t.115	Canton Ins. Office, Ld.	10,000	£15	£8	180 April	145 Jan.	180	100		
b. 2770	North China Ins. Co., Ld.	15,458	\$250	100	972 Aug.	760 Jan.	1005	730		
n. lex 73 \$205	Union Ins. S'ty of Cton, Ld.	12,000	\$100	60	280 Dec.	200 Jan.	300	190		
b. 5128	Yungtze Ins. Assoc. Ld...	12,000	\$100	60						
b. 5310	Fire Insurances.	20,000	\$100	20	163 Aug.	1274 April	168	121		
b. 5310	China Fire Ins. Co., Ld.	8,000	\$250	50	420 Sept.	385 Jan.	420	290		
b. 5154	H'kong Fire Ins. Co., Ld...									
b. 5154	Shipping.	20,000	£50	all	104 Dec.	284 Mar.	137	70		
b. 5154	Douglas Steamship Co., Ld.	80,000	\$15	all	234 May	19 Dec.	24	15		
b. & sa. 1158	Indo-China (Combined Steam Naviga- tion Co., Ld... Preferred)	60,000	£5	all	172 Dec.	6214 Jan.	241	119		
b. 5333	60,000	£5	all	117 Dec.	80 Dec.	186	87			
b. 5333	68 Oct.	34 Aug.	55	32						
n. 1127	Shell T'port & T'ng Co., Ld.	3,797,610	£1	all	94/6 June	75/- Jan.	120/-	86/6		
n. 428	Star Ferry Company, Ld....	40,000	\$10	all	3914 Oct.	23 July	41	28		
b. 4834	Refineries.	20,000	\$100	all	134 Sept.	80 Jan.	146	32		
s. 534	China S. Refining Co., Ld.	14,000	P.50	all			41	29		
b. 38	Kailan Mining Adminstration.	1,000,000	£1	all	35/- April	30/- Dec.	40/-	26/-		
b. 4260	Raub Australian Gold Min- ing Co., Ld....	20,000	£1	all	440 Mar.	240 Jan.	3.35	1.70		
b. 30	Tronoh Mines Ltd....	160,000	£1	all	25/- Dec.	32/6 Mar.	42/6	23/6		
b. 20	Ural Caspians.....	796,666	£1	all	43/- April	25/- Jan.	38/9	23/-		
n. 27	Oriental Ccp. Min. Co. Ltd.	429,890	G. \$10	all						
b. & sa. 1951	Docks Wharves, Godowns, &c. H'kong & K.W. & G. Co., Ld.	60,000	\$50	all	82 Oct.	65 April	99	67		
b. 1303	H.K. & W. D. Co. Ld....	60,000	\$50	all	90 Oct.	56 Mar.	135	78		
n. t. 803	Shai Dock & Eng. Co., Ld....	55,700	t.100	all	6314 Sept.	49 July	95	59		
b. t. 66	Shai & H'kew W. Co., Ld.	36,000	t.100	all	300 Dec.	80 April	93	67		
b. 190	Lands, Hotels and Buildings.	20,000	\$50	all	124 Feb.	108 Dec.	118	94		
n. 4861	H'kong Hotel Co., Ld....	50,000	\$100	all	114 Jan.	10314 Dec.	10514	85		
b. 5560	H'phrey Estate & F. Co. Ld.	150,000	\$10	all	714 Jan.	5 July	7.10	5.65		
b. 5274	K'loon Land & Bing Co., Ld.	6,100	\$60	80	44 Jan.	40 Sept.	38	33		
b. 570	Shanghai Lands.....	75,000	£150	all	57 Mar.	107 Dec.	107	74		
n. 678	West Point Building Co., Ld.	10,000	\$50	all	6814 Mar.	77 Dec.	90	69		
b. 690	H'kong Central Estates.....	10,000	\$100	all	103 Dec.	99 Jan.	103	89		
n. t. 160	Ewo Cotton S. & W. Co., Ld.	20,000	t.50	all	180 July	117 Jan.	180	130		
n. t. 65	Kung Yik .....	75,000	t.10	all	162 July	114 Feb.	164	113		
n. t. 125	Laou Kung Mow.....	8,000	t.100	all	9014 Sept.	72 Jan.	81	63		
n. t. 403	Shanghai Cottons.....	40,000	t.50	all	100 May	77 Jan.	136	81		
n. t. 810	Oriental Cotton Spin. Co. Ltd.	20,000	t.50	all						
n. t. 193	Yangtzeopus.....	175,000	t.5	all	61 Oct.	634 Dec.	814	43		
n. t. 44	Miscellaneous.	60,000	\$12	all	111 Apr.	91 May	10.35	6.50		
b. 8775	China Borneo Company, Ld.	54,000	£5	all	3.65 Mar.	4.95 Oct.	4.90	3		
b. 530	China Light, Power Co. Ld.	50,000	\$1	all						
b. 448	Do. (Spec. shares).....	50,000	\$1	all	71 Jan.	10.15 Oct.	10.10	7.50		
b. 448	China Front. L. & M. Co. Ld.	125,000	\$10	all	35 Jan.	29 Dec.	41	20		
b. 448	Dairy Farm Company, Ld.	60,000	75	all	11.20 Oct.	5.20 Jan.	12.10	6.75		
b. 448	Green Island Cement Co. Ld.	400,000	\$7.50	all	45 Oct.	3614 Feb.	55	43		
b. 1190	Hongkong Electric Co., Ld.	6,500	\$25	all	190 Dec.	183 Oct.	190	147		
b. 830	Hongkong Rope Mfg. Co., Ld.	60,000	\$10	all	34 Dec.	25 Jan.	41	26		
b. 662	Hongkong Tramway Co., Ld.	325,000	5/-	all	6 Oct.	5 Apr.	7.50	5/4		
b. t. 14	Langkats .....	250,000	G. \$10	all	4314 May	35 Mar.	40	12		
s. cts. 40	Peak Tramway Co., Ld. (Old) Do. (New)	25,000	\$10	all	1014 Mar.	9.30 June	10.25	8		
n. 84	Steam Laundry Co., Ld....	20,000	\$5	all	4.25 Jan.	3 June	4	3.00		
n. t. 113	Union Water-boat Co., Ld.	27,723	\$7	all	18 Jan.	16 Dec.	17	12		
b. 551	Watson and Co., Ld.....	30,000	\$10	all	7.10 Mar.	6.50 Oct.	7.70	51		
n. t. 664	William Powell, Limited...	21,000	\$7	all	6.90 Aug.	6 Dec.	71	51/2		
n. t. 529	S. C. Morning Post .....	6,100	\$25	all	28	28	29	28		
n. t. 510	H'kong Steel Foundry Co. Ld.	7,800	\$10	all	</					

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and he will come to his senses, being paid in his own coin by the Allies.

An Astrological Forecast.  
This war is a struggle of Destiny and Human energy. England is now backed by Destiny and no Human endeavour can stand before her. Everything will be over-come by her.

As this year 1918 begins with

the Jupiter and Stars in retrograde motion, and Mars will

be retrograde in February and

all other planets will retrograde

one by one within the New Year.

This shows that the earlier por-

tion of this year will be full of

bloody battles in Europe, giving

Victory to the English. On the

12th February the British will

have a great victory over the

Germans near Lille in the West

They will have another victory

on the 15th April. The Germans

will be driven out of France after

18th July this year. Now the

British have to fight hard the

Germans for full six months and

18 days. The Germans will be

seen no more on the French soil.

The Belgian soil will be recovered

by the British within 2nd

December, 1918. The British will

force the Germans to retreat

within the 5th September, 1919.

Another Astrologer's Predictions:

The following astrological pre-

dictions for 1918 have been mad-

by Prof K. P. Jyotishi, astrologer

and son of the Indian Zidkiat.

From the astrological points of

view so far as can be ascertained

regarding the futurity of the new

year the result of the reigning

stars for the year 1918, will be:-

(1) The chance of the end of

the war taking place this year is

little.

(2) Peace proposals of a few

nations of Europe, will be found

above the surface of the "War

Ocean" but they will disappear

beneath its depths with no effect.

(3) America will show much

more sense of her duties towards

the world.

(4) Denmark will be drawn

towards the war and it will result

in favour of the Allies.

(5) Britain will achieve more

successes in her efforts than in

the previous years.

(6) Germany will sustain

serious losses of different natures

### NOTICES:

#### WAH KEE.

FLAG & SAILMAKER  
No. 129, Des Vaux Road Central  
Top Floor,  
HONGKONG.  
Telephone No. 1833

#### ASAHI BEER.



JOHN AGNEW  
Mitsui Busan Kalista  
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### POST OFFICE.

The Parcel Post Services to British East Africa and Egypt (except for members of the Expeditionary Forces), and to Abyssinia, Bagdad, British, French Small Coast, Italian Somaliland, Portuguese East Africa, Zanzibar and Russia have been suspended.

Correspondence addressed to enemy subjects in China, Siam, Siberia and Portuguese East Africa, Persia and Morocco cannot be transmitted.

The Services to Germany, Austria, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire are suspended.

Unissued parcels for the United Kingdom will in future be forwarded from Hongkong in bags and the Public are therefore advised to pack such parcels very carefully.

Letters franked at the 4 cents rate addressed to Yenanfu and Mengtze and other places in the Province of Yunnan should be superscribed with the words "For delivery by the Chinese Post Office."

Parcels for Greece cannot be accepted for transmission unless accompanied by a special permit issued by the British Minister at Athens.

Arrangements have been made for the transmission of parcels to the United Kingdom via Canada.

The rates of postage are as follows:-

Parcel not over 3 lbs... 90 cents

Do. 7 lbs... \$1.80

Do. 11 lbs... 2.70

No insurance can be effected on parcels sent by this route.

#### IMPORT PROHIBITIONS.

The public are informed that the undeclared articles are prohibited from importation into the United Kingdom, either by letter post or by parcel post.

Gold manufactured or unmanufactured including gold coins and articles consisting partly of or containing gold; All manufacturers of Silver other than silver watches and silver watch cases; Jewelry of any description.

Letters and Parcels containing such articles cannot therefore be accepted for transmission by the Post Office.

The Parcel Post service to Aden except in respect of parcels for military and naval addressees has been suspended.

#### FRENCH PARCEL REGULATIONS.

The public are informed that the new regulations adopted by the French Customs insist that senders of parcels addressed to France, Corse and Algeria must fill in the columns of the regular Customs Declaration particularly and exactly, omitting none of the headings comprised therein.

It is furthermore absolutely necessary to show in the aforesaid declaration (1) The full name and address of the addressee (2) Statements as to whether the contents are intended for State supplies or not.

#### LOCAL AND REGULAR MAILS OUTWARD.

Tai O.—Week days 5 p.m.  
Tai Po.—Week days, 10 a.m.; Sundays, 9.30 a.m.  
Cheung Chow.—Week days, 7.30 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Shataukok, Shatin and Sheungshui—Week days, 4 p.m.

Aberdeen, Autun, Ping Shan, Sai Kung, Santan and Stanley.—Week days, 4.30 p.m.

Canton, Sam Mun and Wanshou.—Week days, 7.30 a.m.; Registration 5 p.m.; Letters, 7.30 a.m.; Weekdays, 5 p.m.

Makassar—Weekdays, 7.15 a.m., 1.30 p.m.; Sundays, 9 a.m.

Kongmoo—Week days, 6 p.m. Except Saturday, Sundays, 5 p.m.

Nantam and Sammel—Week days, 5 p.m.

Shamchon—Week days, 10 a.m., 4 p.m.; Sundays, 9 a.m.

#### METEOROLOGICAL.

Tai O.—Week days, 5 p.m.

Cheung Chow.—Week days, 10 a.m.; Sundays, 9.30 a.m.

Hongkong Observatory, Feb. 15, 1918

T. F. CLAXTON, Director.

Previous Day On date  
Barometer... 30.01 30.11 30.09  
Temperature... 66 53 63  
Humidity... 65 59 55  
Wind Direction... E. N.N.E. E.  
Wind Force... 2 4 3  
Weather... b c b  
Rain... 0.00 0.00 0.00  
Highest open air Temperature as the 1st  
Lewes... 29.80 76 55 aw 2c

H.K. Observatory, Feb. 15, 1918

T. F. CLAXTON, Director.

### WEATHER REPORT.

February 15th, 12.30 p.m.—No returns from Japan, Vladivostock, Shanghai, and Indo-China. With few exceptions, pressure has increased slightly to moderately at all stations reporting. The anticyclone has probably regained intensity, and fresh monsoon will prevail along the China Coast and over the N. China Sea.

Hongkong Rainfall for the 24 hours ending at 10 a.m. to-day, 0.00 inch. Total since January 1st 10.3 inches against an average of 2.4 inches.

FORECAST FOR THE 24 HOURS ENDING AT NOON TO-MORROW.

District. Forecast.

1 Hongkong to Gap Rock N.E. winds, fresh; fine.

2 Formosa Channel N. winds, strong.

3 South coast of China betw. the same as No. 1.

4 South coast of China betw. Hainan as No. 1.

China Coast Meteorological Register, February 15, a.m.

Station	Hour	Barometer	Temperature	Humidity	Wind
Vostock	6				
Hamro	5				
Hakodate	4				
Tokio	3				
Kochi	2				
Kagoshima	1				
Osima					
Naha					
Ishigaki					
Bonin Is.					
Whalehead	6	30.35	53	88 am	6 b.
Hankow					
Lichuan					
Chinkiang					
Changsha					
Guilin					
Sharp P.	6	30.17	48	91 n	to
Amoy					
Swatow					
Taihoku	6	30.18	54	89 n	10
Taichu					
Takao					
Macau					
Pudore	6	30.05	54	n	4 r
Canton	6	30.01	54	nne	4 o
Hikong	6	30.19	55	86 n	20
Gap Rock	6	30.11	58	59 am	4 c
Macao	6	30.05	55	66 nn	4 o
Wuchow	6				
Pakhoi					
Hochow					
Pinlim	7				
Tourane					
C. St. J.	6	29.86	70	96	0 r
Apari	6	29.82	73	98	0 c
Dagurian	6	29.84	70	95	0 b
Manila	6	29.84	89 n	1 o	
Leganpi	6				
Tacloban					
Bollo					
Surigao					
Guam	4.20				
Laucau					